

21. (currently amended): The signal-source connector assembly of claim 16, wherein the signal source ~~is~~ means comprises a temperature to electrical transducer.

Amendments to the drawings

In Fig. 1, reference designator 40B on the upper interface connector assembly 15A is incorrect and is hereby changed to 30B and reference designator 30B on the lower interface connector assembly 15B is incorrect and is hereby changed to 40A.

In Figs. 5A-5D the hatching for insulating material has been changed to better distinguish from hatching for metal material.

These amendments have been made in the two red-marked drawings and the two replacement formal drawings attached in the Appendix following page 9 of this paper. In addition, drawings with Figs. 3, 4A, 4B, Figs. 6A - 6D, and Fig. 7 are enclosed that have cleaner lines and are consistent with replacement drawings with Figs. 1, 2 and Figs. 5A - 5F.

Remarks:

The Specification has been amended replacing the heading "Prior Art" with "Known Art" and to add the heading "Background of the Invention" which defines "active" in the context of electronic devices and transducers, as intended in the present application.

Claim 1 are amended to directly claim the pair of contact ends as the fourth claim element, and to claim "at least one active electronic device..." as the fifth element.

Claim 2, 6 and 14 are amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Claims 7 and 8 are amended to correspond with amended language "active electronic device" now found in claim 1.

Claim 14 has been amended in accordance with Examiner's remarks (OA page 4 first paragraph) to express the "signal source" as "means".

Claims 16-21 have been amended to provide language to correspond with "means" in claim 14 as amended.

Arguments:

In items 1 and 2 of the OA, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-11, 14, 16-19 are rejected as anticipated by Walkup (US005167512A) (herein referred to as '512A) under 35 U.S.C 102(b). Applicant

respectfully traverses such rejection on the grounds of the following differences that clearly show the '512A reference to be a distinctly different invention that fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Clearly the connector element 21 in the '512A reference is not an active device: it is no more than a single metal conductor that can constitute only a single node in a circuit, and thus element 21 is not even a passive component and is thus in a category that is twice removed from applicant's "active electronic device" which is now claimed directly. Accordingly, claim 1 is seen as not anticipated under Rule 102(b).

Regarding claim 14 and claims 16-19 dependent thereto, claim 14 calls for "an electrical signal-source module"; since there is nothing equivalent to or even suggestive of a "signal source module", or even an electronic component of any kind, found anywhere in the cited '512A reference, claim 14, particularly as presently amended, is considered to be clearly not anticipated under Rule 102(b).

Accordingly applicant submits that in view of the very distinct differences shown above, claim 1 along with claims 3, 5, 7-11 dependent thereto and claim 14 along with claims 16-19 dependent thereto have been shown to be clearly not anticipated under Rule 102(b) by the cited '512 reference.

In item 3 of the OA, claims 6, 12, 20-22 are rejected as being rendered obvious by '512A. under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Such rejection is respectfully traversed on grounds of the following differences.

The cited '512A reference discloses, teaches and claims only "a connector system for providing electrical connections between two mutually opposed arrays of circuit contact pads" (abstract), by means of highly conductive resilient serpentine shaped connector elements 21 whose purpose is clearly to create a low resistance short circuit between printed circuit board pads such as 28, 32, 36 and 38, and thus connect them together to form a single node of an electrical circuit, with no mention of even passive or active electronic components which would each require at least two nodes to be provided by two unconnected terminals. In contradistinction, the subject matter of claim 6 defines capability for five nodes: the two conductive layers, a single-contact end and a double-contact end, available for the claimed active electronic device. The key element in the cited '512A reference, i.e. element 21, being merely a low resistance conductor, and not even a passive component or active device, would short-circuit all of the five available nodes provided by applicant for an active electronic device, and thus connect them all together to a single node that would render applicant's invention totally inoperable. Thus by teaching away instead of toward applicant's claimed invention, and in view of the other

distinctive differences cited above, the cited reference clearly fails to render obviousness under Rule 103(a).

Similarly with regard to rejection of claims 2, 12 and 15 further citing Linderman et al., applicant believes that the differences shown above are of a nature and extent that clearly evidence non-obviousness under Rule 103(a).

With regard to claims 20-21 and the Examiner's remarks on page 4 of the OA concerning functional language, it is believed that the Examiner's objections are overcome by the present amendments to claims 14 and 16-21 utilizing the functional recitation expressing the "signal source" as "means".

In view of the foregoing amendments, remarks and arguments, applicant respectfully submits that each issue raised in the OA has been addressed and that pending claims 1-21 as now amended are now in condition for allowance. Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue of the claims as amended.

No additional fee is seen as required.

Respectfully submitted,



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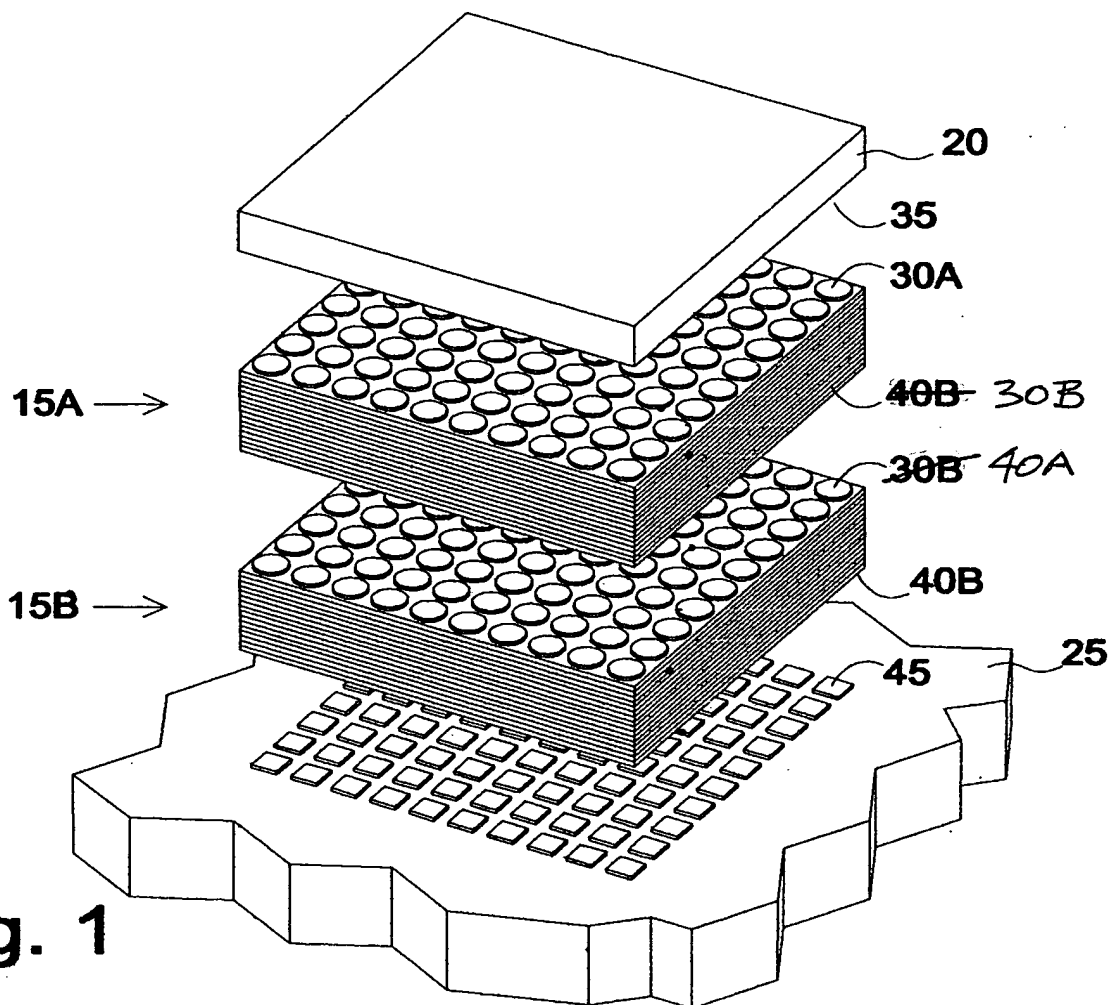
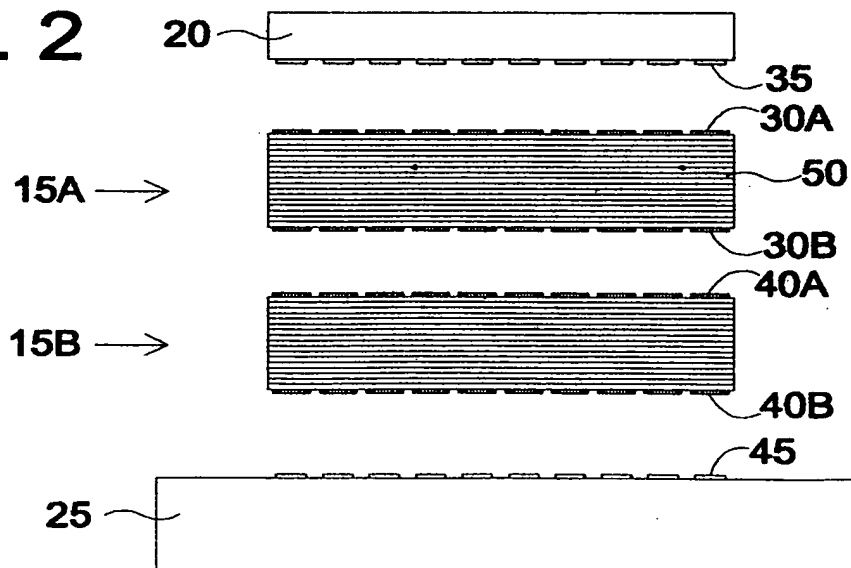


Fig. 1

Fig. 2



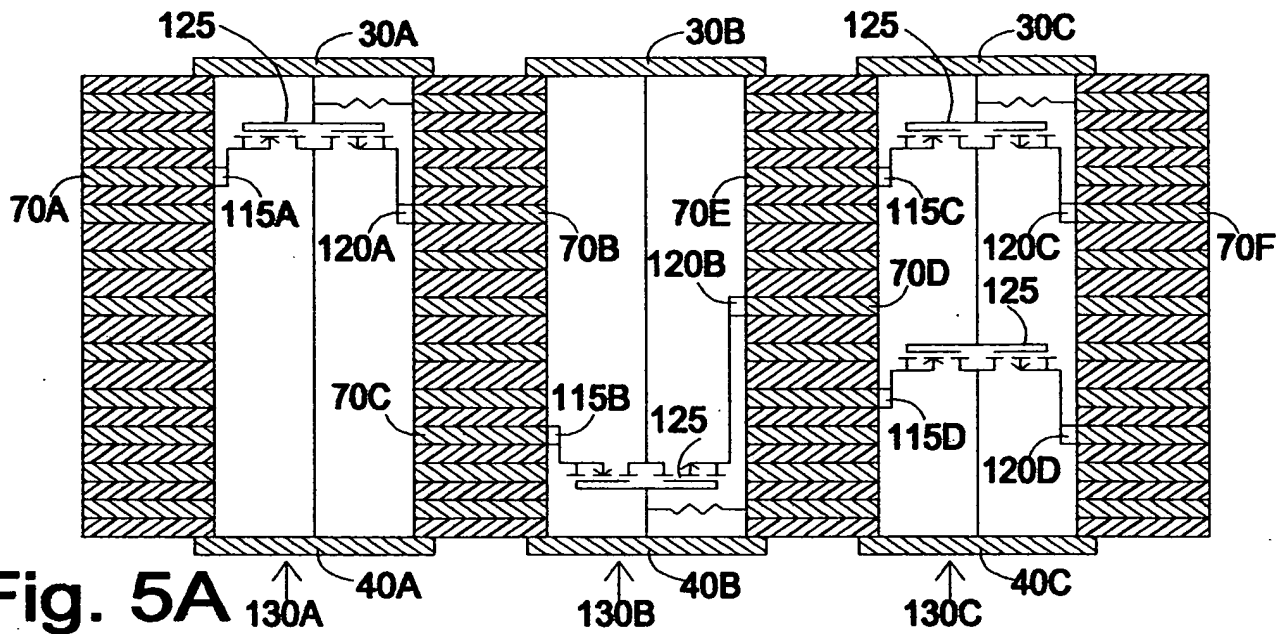


Fig. 5A

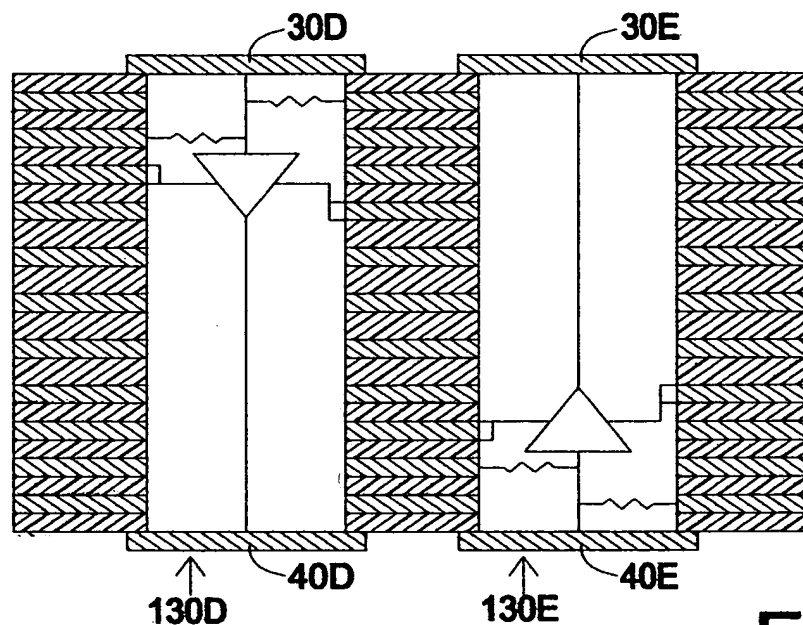


Fig. 5B

Fig. 5C

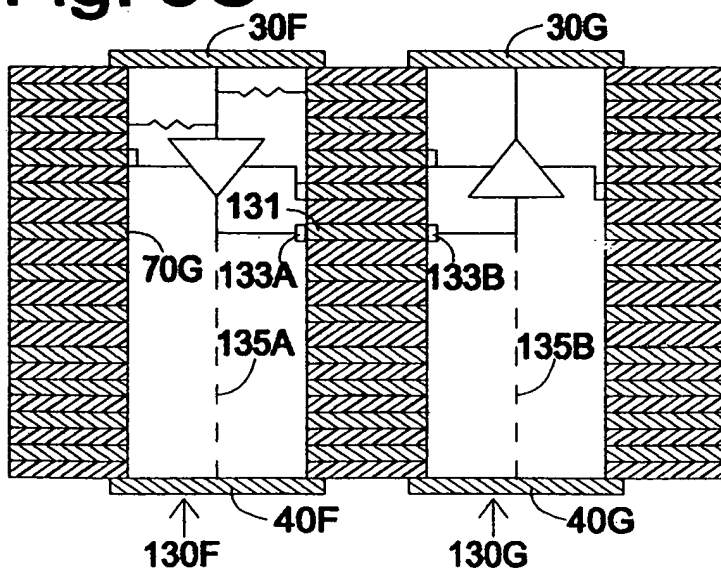


Fig. 5D

